"Ultimately, it is the development of the movement itself and our capacity too fight that will free those who are now in the hands of the enemy. This is the lesson of the liberation of Assata Shakur, William Morales, the 5 Puerto Rican Nationalist POW's, and the recently freed 1,150 Palestinian POW's. Commandante Torres, one of the commanders of the Nicaraguan Defense Forces, said recently, 'It is when a people resist that they triumph. It is this that the u.s. ruling class has never understood.'"

"Repression Breeds Resistance" — *Only If We Try*

the editorial statement of The Committee to Fight Repression, **The Insurgent***, vol 1., no. 1 summer 1985*

"Repression Breeds Resistance"—*Only If We Try*, The Committee to Fight Repression, Editorial, *The Insurgent*, vol 1, no 1, summer 1985

Mara Cagol Memorial Library *https://archive.org/details/the-insurgent-vol-1-no-1-summer-1985*

Cover image from "Build A Revolutionary Resistance Movement! Communiques From The North American Clandestine Movement 1982 - 1985," published presumably by The Committee to Fight Repression

Mara Cagol Memorial Library *https://archive.org/details/build-arev-res-mvmt-communiques*

with whatever weapons at hand

Ultimately, it is the development of the movement itself and our capacity too fight that will free those who are now in the hands of the enemy. This is the lesson of the liberation of Assata Shakur, William Morales, the 5 Puerto Rican Nationalist POW's, and the recently freed 1,150 Palestinian POW's. Commandante Torres, one of the commanders of the Nicaraguan Defense Forces, said recently, "It is when a people resist that they triumph. It is this that the u.s. ruling class has never understood."

Our movement is establishing a revolutionary direction, a tradition to protect, defend, and build as more people begin to oppose the greatest violator of human rights that humanity has yet faced — u.s. imperialism. These seeds of resistance will fall, take root, and grow wherever people are struggling, looking for answers, and beginning to see their own future more tied to the people of Vietnam, Central America, Southern Africa, Palestine, and with the masses of New Afrikan/Black people, Puerto Rican, Mexican, and Native peoples within the empire.

We have hope in this revolutionary process and in the future we are struggling for.

from nations colonized by u.s. imperialism and from the revolutionary anti-imperialist movement, are primary targets of the government's counter-insurgency strategy. Breaking through the state's isolation of captured POW's and political prisoners, building political support for them, and defending them against physical and political attack, is at is heart a commitment to continue the struggle for a revolutionary movement. Those who are resisting in the arena of the courts, the prisons, and the grand juries, are fighting for revolutionary principles and for a strategy to advance and build this struggle.

There are well over 100 political prisoners and POW's, and numbers of grand jury resisters currently on trial and/or in prisons around the u.s. There are many ways to support them.

Court to court: In past years our movement was greatly affected by every encounter with captured revolutionaries — New Afrikan/Black freedom fighters Assata Shakur, Sundiata Acoli, Sekou Odinga, Kuwasi Balagoon; Puerto Rican POW's William Morales, Haydee Torres, and others; anti-imperialists Judy Clark and David Gilbert, to name a few. We came out of court different from when we went in — stronger, clearer, more committed, and more sure that we each had the capacity to change ourselves and to follow their examples.

Write to them: included in this journal is a list of names and addresses of the captured comrades. Receiving letters protects them from the state's isolation and attacks because it is an indication of their support outside the walls. Corresponding to people in the political movements is a way to fight their political isolation and for the movement to benefit from their experience and political leadership.

Other ways to support captured revolutionaries include: making financial contributions to their defense when they're on trial, participating in phone and letter campaigns around emergency attacks and repressive conditions. Campaigns are being fought for international recognition of the Puerto Rican POW's and of New Afrikan and Native American POW's as freedom fighters of colonized nations in a war against u.s. imperialism, demanding that they be accorded status as POW's under international law. These campaigns can be supported through public education, media attention, and attending demonstrations and other types of militant action.

Towards a Revolutionary Resistance Movement.

We have seen the incipient attempts of attack. Never have we not, for the only historical law—whether of dialectical materialism or the spirit of revolt—is wherever there is repression there is resistance. Though this editorial announcement we are republishing of the Committee to Fight Repression from the first issue of their newsletter, The Insurgent, might appear dated, it is not because of what it demands from us—to develop the capacity to fight for the liberation of the oppressed and to support the fighters. The only anachronism is our present lack of the organized capacity to fight (the BLA, UFF, WUP, GJB, etc. were crushed) and our present lack of an international horizon of liberation (the revolutionary insurgency of national liberation struggles in Central and South America, West and East Asia, and Africa were crushed).

This is only an anachronism, however, from the perspective of imperialist history. It's 'now' isn't ours. Our history is with the defeated, as was the history of the defeated, too, who fight outside of history for the end of this endless present. We still have elders from the fighting organizations in prison. Every year another is killed. And the guerrilla of 'now' goes by no name, though between then and now they've had many names. In Palestine the proletarian internationalist revolution continues. In the Philippines too. The world over. We are the anachronism, we who know the necessity of fighting but still haven't leapt from intention into act. What's missing from the world is our spirit of resistance. Repression is already here. Repression is the continuity, the consistency, and breadth of the neverending counterrevolution. That's where we, the future fighters, should start.

1) Analyzing the state's strategies of repression.
2) Defining a program that fights against repression.
3) Supporting those who face repression.

Repression will come to any who threaten the stability of u.s. imperialism —let it come. We will either win or lose. It's not like the future depends on us... It's not like there will be a future if we don't make our struggle real... Nothing can stop it. Nothing can silence it. It is inevitable.

Only if we try.

To support political prisoners, visit:

uprisingsupport.org

nycabc.wordpress.com

thejerichomovement.com

current stage of development of the repression that has always been necessary for imperialism to maintain its control over the world. So parts of counterinsurgency must be attempts to destroy the revolutionary movements that are growing to threaten its existence. For example, the Joint Terrorist Task Force in New York was set up to capture revolutionaries from the national liberation struggles and from the anti-imperialist movement — now similar FBI/local police/state police joint operations exist in every major city. This centralization of police forces has allowed the full brunt of technological and investigative procedures be used against revolutionary and progressive forces. It has crated the material basis for a police state mentality in members of all the law enforcement agencies. It has also enabled the repressive tactics to include the enlistment of portions of the population to actively aid the state's investigation of revolutionaries in the name of their coordinated "anti-terrorism" campaigns. This was most typified by the recent Western Sweep operation. It used the Joint Terrorist Task Force as a model to bring together police agencies from five northeastern states on both a federal and local level to distribute thousands of pictures of known and hunted revolutionaries, institute roadblocks, and question thousands of people. Millions of dollars were spent, and thousands of agents were involved. The operation was coordinated by and the information sifted through centralized computers.

2) To define a program that more effectively fights against repression.

Our movement needs to build its commitment to defend ourselves and our organizations against repression. This means actively organizing against specific counterinsurgency attacks against the revolutionary and progressive movements. It means committing ourselves to defending and supporting those who are in clandestinity to build our capability to fight. It means supporting armed action against the enemy as a critical part of a strategy to build revolutionary resistance. And it means actively joining in the everyday struggles for human rights in every one of our communities, supporting New Afrikan/Black, Puerto Rican, and Mexicano/Chicano communities in their ongoing fight against police brutality, killer cops, the border patrol, and other forces of repression.

3) To build support for captured revolutionaries.

Comrades who have been in the frontline of resistance to the enemy, both

A recently captured revolutionary, Dr. Alan Berkman, made a statement about the principles that led him to resist the 1982 grand jury investigating the New Afrikan Independence movement and its allies: "What are the principles which led me to resist this grand jury and upon which a movement of of resistance is being built in this country? — The u.s. government is fundamentally illegitimate and oppressive. — Oppressed people have the right to secure their basic human rights and win their liberation by any means necessary. — Every person has the right, the responsibility, and the capacity to actively resist government repression and incident fascism, and that, if we do so, we will build a movement that will have the power to transform this society."

The Committee to Fight Repression is committed to these principles. We will be publishing this journal as part of the struggle to build revolutionary resistance to imperialism. We have several goals for our work, which we believe are urgent tasks for our movement as a whole:

1) To analyze the state's counterinsurgency strategies.

We need to know our enemy — the u.s. imperialist state and imperialist ruling class — in order to resist it. Counterinsurgency is the u.s. government's war strategy against the revolutionary movements that are developing in the national liberation struggles inside the borders of the u.s. and in Puerto Rico, and also against anti-imperialists of the oppressor nation. It is called "counterinsurgency" because it is an adaptation of the counterinsurgency, counter-guerrilla war strategies used against liberation movements from Central America to Palestine to Azania/South Africa. It is a strategy led from the State Department, the Pentagon, the Justice Department — the highest levels of the u.s. government. It is essentially a military strategy. Here in the u.s. it takes many forms that are different from the Third World because this is imperialism's home base, and the government has to maintain a cover of "democratic rights" as long as possible. But the harsh reality is exposed in the form of an undeclared war of genocide against the New Afrikan/ Black and Puerto Rican communities: the massacre of MOVE activists in Philadelphia and the bombing of the Black community there; the increasing militarization and storage of nuclear weapons in Puerto Rico and its use as the base for u.s. war operations against Central America; the targeting of Black revolutionaries in the New York 8+ trial and of Puerto Rican patriots in the "seditious conspiracy" trial in Chicago. Counterinsurgency is the

"Repression Breeds Resistance"—*Only If We Try*

The Committee to Fight Repression, Editorial,
The Insurgent, vol. 1, no. 1, summer 1985

"We are captured, but not defeated, long live the anti-imperialist resistance!" "We are guilty of no crimes, only of fighting to stop them." "We have begun to learn the lessons from national liberation struggles — we have more to win by fighting harder to defeat our common enemy, u.s. imperialism, than we have to lose." These are statements made by recently arrested northamerican revolutionaries, all accused of either participating in or supporting the building of clandestine armed revolutionary organizations.

During the last decade, national liberation struggles worldwide have continued to build prolonged people's war to defeat imperialism, to end colonialism and neo-colonialism, and win self-determination and independence. This is producing not only increasing imperialist aggression, counterrevolution and internal repression, but also more progressive resistance in the u.s.

Close to the heart of imperialism, armed clandestine organizations of the national liberation struggles have helped to lead the development of protracted people's war for their own struggles. In Puerto Rico, the OVRP, the PRT-Macheteros, the FARP, and the ERP have mounted armed attacks against the military and other aspects of u.s. colonialism of Puerto Rico. Inside u.s. borders, as part of building the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the FALN has attacked the economic infrastructure supporting u.s. colonialism as well as the police and the injustice system responsible for repressing the Puerto Rican community. The Black Liberation Army has attacked the police, liberated Assata Shakur from prison, and expropriated money to build the revolutionary struggle for liberation of the New Afrikan/Black nation inside the borders of the u.s. Since 1982, there has been the emergence of northamerican armed clandestine organizations — the United Freedom Front, the Armed Resistance Unit, the Revolutionary Fighting Group, and the Red Guerrilla Resistance. These organizations began a program of armed solidarity with national liberation struggles — in particular, with the struggles of Central America, Azania/South Africa, Lebanon and Palestine, Grenada, Puerto Rico, and the colonized New Afrika/Black nation in the u.s. Their armed

actions, part of a growing resistance movement in the u.s., have included bombings of the Capitol, military installations, Israeli/zionist and South African targets, multinational corporations, and the New York Police Benevolent Association.

These revolutionary anti-imperialist clandestine organizations in the oppressor nation are qualitative developments for our resistance movement. Although the FBI tries to distort the truth by saying that these forces represent the dying remnants of the 60's, the reality is that these resistance fighters are some of the clearest and most committed revolutionaries that developed from that period of heightened struggle against imperialism, and who are trying to apply the lessons of the 60's and 70's to the struggle of the 80's. At a time when there are new forces coming into motion, there are many debates going on in the anti-imperialist, anti-war, sanctuary, or Free South Africa movements: militancy vs. pacifism, direct action vs. lobbying, direct support for national liberation forces vs. protest only against u.s. policies, to name a few. In these debates, the armed clandestine movement has represented a clear focus of revolutionary politics, rooted in proletarian internationalism. With this development our movement has gained a new dimension of solidarity — building our capacity, outside the eyes of the state, to engage in armed struggle against our common enemy, making it more and more costly for the u.s. to make war and counterrevolution against national liberation movements. This makes possible the building of real alliances with national liberation struggles at every level of the struggle because we are building our own capacity to resist, not simply supporting theirs. The armed clandestine movement also challenges the conception that all of our work should be accessible to the state's eyes and ears. In almost every other struggle — from West Germany to El Salvador — even giving out leaflets is an illegal activity that must be planned and done in secret. We can't depend on bourgeois democratic rights because a serious look at history teaches us that the state will move to repress what it can reach. We need to learn new ways to do our work before the old ways are illegal. In this period that armed clandestine movement has helped give us direction to move from protest to resistance — the actual imperialist institutions and war machines are within our reach and vulnerable to disruption at all levels of struggle.

As there have been advances, there have also been losses. Since 1980, 15 Puerto Rican, 13 New Afrikan/Black, and 18 northamerican revolutionaries were captured by the FBI and charged with being part of the support or development of armed clandestine organizations. They are now resisting in the arena of the courts and prisons, continuing to fight for their principles and ideology.

Many activists from the Puerto Rican independence movement, the New Afrikan/Black liberation movement, and anti-imperialist movement have resisted the state's investigation and repression of these armed clandestine organizations and the movements from which they come. Although they have been visited and harassed by the FBI and subpoenaed by the grand jury, many people have refused to testify to the grand juries investigation of these armed actions. Putting the principle of non-collaboration into action, there are presently over 20 people in jails around the u.s. for refusing to assist the government in intelligence gathering of movements and their hunts for revolutionaries. Community-wide resistance to repression is also growing. In Battle Creek, Michigan, police reacted to a struggle led by the Black community against killer cops by subpoenaing over 200 people to a grand jury, threatening all of them with jail. But the struggle continues. Activists from the Central American solidarity movement, the anti-apartheid movement, the anti-nuclear movement, the Sanctuary movement, and the anti-draft/anti-war movements have all begun resistance campaigns of direct action and civil disobedience to halt the u.s. increasing militarism and drive towards war. They too have been the targets of the government's repressive attacks. "Repression Breeds Resistance" is a slogan that originated from supporters of the Black Liberation Army in the early 1970's. They had been confronted with the systematic repression of the FBI's COINTELPRO (counter-intelligence program) that was designed to destroy the Black liberation movement as well as to target other national liberation and progressive movements.

But nothing is automatic: repression only produces resistance when we are committed to actively fighting against repression as part of building revolutionary resistance to u.s. imperialism. When any movement is repressed, there are at least two possible reactions. Ons is to give into the state's attacks and seek a safer haven in reformism, self-protection, and a pullback from the struggle. The other reaction is to strengthen our ideology, the principles that guide our practice, and our commitment to learn lessons and advance.